

# CONSUMER PROTECTION



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# News

December 2001 Edition

Dear Wisconsin Children's Safety Advocates:

In November, 2001, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission issued **nine (9) recalls and one (1) safety advisory relating to products affecting children.** Attached is a summary of the releases identifying the product, problem and what should be done with the recalled product.

We have found that not all of the recalls are picked up by the news media as they occur. This monthly summary will give you the opportunity to review all of the children's product safety recalls for the past month.

If you are interested in a complete text of the recall, double click on the hyperlink at the end of the recall description. This will take you to the CPSC website and the actual recall notice. If you have other product safety questions you may call our toll free number at **(800) 422-7128 and then press "zero" (0) to speak with Product Safety.** You should leave your name, your organization's name and a phone number.

Following is a listing of the 10 "KIDS" recalls and safety advisories by title and identification number:

- ❖ Sassy Inc. is recalling Rattles for Replacement. #02-030
- ❖ Candlewick Press is recalling Children's Board Books. #02-034
- ❖ Pacific Cycle, LLC is recalling Ally Cat Tandem Bicycle Accessories for Repair. #02-040
- ❖ JA-RU Inc. is recalling "Blast Ball" Toys. #02-042
- ❖ HandsOnToys, Inc. is recalling Rattles. #02-047
- ❖ KB Gear is recalling Computer Mouse Set. #02-048
- ❖ Manley Toy Direct is recalling Zapper Toys. #02-049
- ❖ Stride Rite Children's Group Inc. is recalling Girl's Shoes. #02-050
- ❖ Aqua Leisure Industries Inc. is recalling Inflatable Baby Floats. #02-051
- ❖ Holiday Safety Alert – Recall Roundup of Toys & Children's Products. #02-045

We hope you find this service of value and that it assists you to:

## **"KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE!"**

# KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE

**Recall Number:** 02-030 Sassy Inc., of Northbrook, Ill., is voluntarily recalling to replace about 455,000 soft rattles. The rattles involved in the recall include:

- **"Lily Pad Rattle"** - A green frog with four plastic legs and a multi-colored belly.
- **"Bitty Kitty Rattle"** - A clear, plastic tube filled with beads connects a purple, cat-like face to a purple ball. Three plastic pieces encircle the plastic tube and make a rattle sound when shaken.
- **"This Little Piggy Rattle"** - A pink pig-like face is connected to a green ball by a yellow and pink arm and a blue arm. Beads inside the green ball make a rattle sound when shaken.
- **"Goo Goo Goldfish"** - A multi-colored fish with pink lips, an orange fin, and a clear, plastic tube that connects the head to the tail. Beads inside the tube make a rattle sound when shaken.
- **"Smoochie Poochie Rattle"** - A blue, puppy-like face with green spotted ears is connected to a blue and green spotted body. Five plastic pieces encircle the body and make a rattle sound when shaken.
- **"Crinkly Crown Dragon Rattle"** - A green dragon with a scaled, curved tail. Three blue ridges protrude from the dragon's back.



A caret tag attached to the head of each rattle reads in part, "Sassy" and "1999 Made in China." Rattles with the same appearance but embroidered eyes are not involved in this recall. Toy and mass merchandise stores nationwide sold these rattles from August 1999 through mid-October 2001 for about \$5.

**Problem:** The sewn-on, spherical shaped fabric eyes on the rattles can detach, posing a choking hazard to small children.

**What to do:** Consumers should immediately take these toys away from young children and return them to Sassy to receive a free

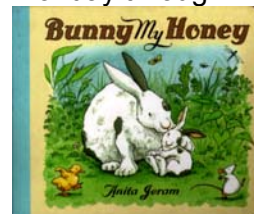
replacement toy. Consumers should call Sassy at (800) 781-1080 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday for information on how to receive the replacement toy. Consumers also can visit the firm's website at [www.sassybaby.com](http://www.sassybaby.com).

- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02030.html>

**Recall Number:** 02-034 Candlewick Press of Cambridge, Mass., is recalling about 78,670 "Bunny My Honey" children's board books printed in Italy. The board books have thick, cardboard-like pages covered with a thin plastic laminate. The title "Bunny My Honey" is printed on the front cover of the books. Only books with "Printed in Italy" on the back cover are included in this recall. Books printed in Mexico are not included in this recall. Bookstores, children's specialty stores and gift shops nationwide sold these books from December 2000 through September 2001 for about \$7.

**Problem:** The plastic lamination on the board book may peel off, posing a choking hazard for young children.

**What to do:** Consumers should take the recalled "Bunny My Honey" board books away from young children immediately and discard them. Consumers can visit the firm's web site at [www.candlewick.com](http://www.candlewick.com) to receive a free replacement book or contact Candlewick Press at (800) 883-0009 (or in the 617 and 781 area codes at (617) 661-3330) between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday.



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02034.html>

**Release Number:** 02-040 Pacific Cycle, LLC, of Madison, Wis., is voluntarily recalling to repair about 2,500 Ally Cat tandem bicycle accessories. The "Ally Cat" tandem bicycle accessory consists of a wheel, seat, pedals, and handlebars, and attaches to the host bicycle by

a hitch. The recalled "Ally Cat" has the model number AC 100, AC 200, or AC 300, which is located on the top tube in products sold by independent bicycle retailers or L.L.Bean Inc. The accessories were sold at Wal-Mart Stores under the name "Mongoose Ally Cat," with the Mongoose name appearing on the down tube of the accessory. There is an aluminum sleeve on the hitch between the host bicycle and the accessory. Bicycle stores and retailers nationwide, including Wal-Mart, sold these bicycle accessories from March 2000 through July 2001 for between \$80 and \$130. "Ally Cat" bicycle accessories with nylon or plastic sleeves on the hitch are not included in this recall.

**Problem:** The hitch connecting the tandem accessory to the host bicycle can fail, causing the tandem accessory to become unstable, which poses the risk of injury to riders.

**What to do:** Consumers should stop using these bicycle accessories immediately and call Pacific Cycle at (800) 626-2811 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday for a free replacement hitch and instructions. In addition, L.L.Bean Inc., which sold these bicycle accessories by catalog, will contact each of their known purchasers to provide the needed replacement parts. For more information, consumers can visit the Mongoose website at [www.mongoose.com](http://www.mongoose.com).



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02040.html>

**Release Number:** 02-042 JA-RU Inc., of Jacksonville, Fla., is voluntarily recalling about 43,000 "Blast Balls" toys. The recalled toys are packaged as "Super Bang...Blast Balls". The balls are sold two in a pack, in a variety of colors. Convenience and novelty stores nationwide sold these toys from June 2001 through October 2001 for about \$2.

**Problem:** When struck together, the toys create a cracking sound similar to that of a cap gun. The directions instruct consumers to strike one ball against the other in the palm of hand to create the cracking sound. When consumers strike the "Blast Balls" together, sparks can ignite, posing a burn hazard.

**What to do:** Consumers should immediately stop using the "Blast Balls" and contact JA-RU for a refund. Consumers can contact JA-RU at (800) 231- 3470 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday.



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02042.html>

**Release Number:** 02-047 HandsOnToys, Inc. of Wilmington, Mass. is voluntarily recalling about 100,000 rattles. The rattles were sold under the Wiggly Giggler brand name. The rattle can be shaken stacked and rolled. The rattle is a 3-inch long tube with mushroom caps on each end. It was sold in three color combinations, green with purple caps, orange with pink caps and purple with orange caps. The rattle contains a noisemaker inside that produces a sound when the rattle is shaken. "Wiggly Giggler™" is written on the tube of the rattle. Specialty toy stores nationwide sold the rattles from May 2000 through September 2001 for between \$2 and \$3. Rattles with a small number "3" imprinted in the painted circle on the base of the mushroom end cap, in the center of the four sound holes are not included in this recall.

**Problem:** The rattle can break and expose the noisemaker inside the rattle handle, posing a choking hazard to young children.

**What to do:** Consumers should immediately take these toy rattles away from children and contact HandsOnToys at (888) 442-6376 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday to receive a replacement toy.



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02047.html>

**Release Number:** 02-048 KB Gear is recalling about 49,000 computer mouse sets for children. The Cozy Coupe Computer Mouse was distributed by KB Gear under license from Little Tikes Co., of Hudson, Ohio. KB Gear liquidated

and as of Nov. 1, 2001, is no longer in business. As a result, the company is unable to provide consumers with a remedy. To encourage consumers to destroy the computer mouse and as a gesture of goodwill, Little Tikes is offering a \$10 coupon to consumers who return the retaining ring from the bottom of the mouse. The Cozy Coupe Computer Mouse is a fully functional computer mouse, shaped like a toy car. The car is plastic and has a red body and yellow roof. A sticker on the back of the car that is shaped like a license plate says, "Cool Car." The computer mouse set also includes two software packages: "Junior Net," a program that provides children with access to a safe environment for e-mailing and participating in animated games; and "Jump\*Start Preschool," a CD with 10 sing and learn songs. Internet retailers, toy, electronics and discount stores nationwide sold these computer mouse sets from September 1999 to August 2001 for between \$5 and \$20.

**Problem:** The mouse ball can separate from the mouse and pose a choking hazard to young children.

**What to do:** Consumers should take the computer mouse away from children immediately and contact Little Tikes at [www.littletikes.com](http://www.littletikes.com) or at (800) 321-0183 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday to obtain a \$10 coupon towards a Little Tikes product.



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02048.html>

**Release Number:** 02-049 Manley Toy Direct, of Indianola, Iowa, is voluntarily recalling about 15,800 Zapper toys. The vinyl Zapper toys are about 2- to 3-inches long, and come in the shape of various animals including frogs, dinosaurs and snakes. When the toy is squeezed, the balloon tongue attached to its mouth inflates or rolls out. "CHINA" or "MADE IN CHINA" is molded into the toy. Arcades, amusement parks and carnivals sold and distributed these toys from January 2000 to August 2001. They were sold for about \$1.

**Problem:** The balloon tongues and the cylinders holding the tongues on these toys can

detach, posing a choking and aspiration hazard to young children.

**What to do:** Consumers should immediately take these toys away from young children and return the toy to the place of purchase for a refund, or throw them away. For more information, contact Manley Toy Direct at (800) 767-9998 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday to Friday, or go to the firm's web site at [www.manleytoy.com](http://www.manleytoy.com).



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02049.html>

**Release Number:** 02-050 Stride Rite Children's Group Inc., of Lexington, Mass., is voluntarily recalling about 109,000 pairs of Munchkin T-Strap girls' shoes. The Munchkin T-Strap girls' shoes were sold in children's sizes 4 through 12. They have a strap that is fastened by a metal buckle on the side of the shoe. The word "MUNCHKIN" is molded into the bottom of the shoe. The shoes have the following style numbers written inside the shoe below the words "Made in China."

3182011 (Brown Suede)  
3182029 (Black Leather)  
3182037 (Red Leather)  
3182045 (Navy Leather)  
3182052 (White Leather)  
3182094 (Black Patent)

Shoe, department and Stride Rite Outlet stores nationwide sold these shoes from January 2001 through September 2001 for about \$25.

**Problem:** The buckle on these shoes can break, posing a choking hazard for young children.

**What to do:** Consumers should take the shoes away from their children immediately and return the shoes to the store where purchased for a refund or replacement shoes. For more information, call Stride Rite at (800) 650- 7708 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or go to the company's web site at [www.strideitecorp.com](http://www.strideitecorp.com).



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02050.html>



**Release Number:** 02-051 Aqua-Leisure Industries Inc., of Avon, Mass., is voluntarily recalling about 90,000 "SunSmart" baby floats. The recalled floats are packaged as "SunSmart" Baby Adjustable Sunshade Boats. The baby floats are blue and white circular tubes with a seat in the middle, and a detachable protective sunshade. The vinyl floats, intended for ages 6 months to 18 months, have pictures of purple crabs and various colored fish along the top. The word, "SunSmart" is printed across the front of the float. The recalled boats can be identified by the lettering "C/S" molded on the valve. Juvenile products, specialty and discount department stores nationwide, including Target, K-Mart, Bed Bath and Beyond and Baby Central, sold the baby floats from August 2000 through September 2001 for between \$10 and \$13.

**Problem:** The leg holes in the seat of the float can tear, causing children to unexpectedly fall into the water and possibly drown.

**What to do:** Consumers should stop using these recalled floats immediately and contact Aqua-Leisure for a free replacement. Consumers can contact Aqua-Leisure at (866) 807-3998 between 9 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's web site at [www.aqualeisure.com](http://www.aqualeisure.com).



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02051.htm>

**Release Number:** 02-045 As families gather for the holidays, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is warning consumers that dangerous children's products may still be in their homes. Grandparents dust off old playpens; older children often share their toys with younger relatives; and keepsakes are stored in old cedar chests. The CPSC wants to prevent these holiday traditions from becoming tragedies.

CPSC is releasing a list of dangerous children's products- over 23 million product units - that might still be in people's homes. These are some of the CPSC's largest recalls or consumer alerts involving children's products over the last year. Families should check whether old products have been recalled

and place them out of the reach of children. Manufacturers will usually offer a free repair kit or replacement product.

Parents can get the list of recalled products by going to the CPSC website, [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov), or calling toll free, 1-800-638-2772. This list identifies recalled children's products that are off store shelves but may still be lurking in attics, basements, toy boxes or closets.

### **Recalled Children's Products that May Still be in Consumers' Homes:**

Zapper Toys (940,000) distributed by nine firms. Small balloon tongues and the cylinders holding the tongues can detach posing a choking hazard. Throw away toys or take them back to place of purchase for a refund.

Sassy Rattles (455,000) distributed by Sassy Inc. Rattles have sewn-on spherical fabric eyes that can detach, posing a choking hazard. Take rattle away from young children and return to Sassy for free replacement. Contact Sassy at (800) 781-1080 or [www.sassybaby.com](http://www.sassybaby.com)

Little Tikes Swings (250,000) distributed by Little Tikes Company. The buckles on the swing can break and the shoulder restraint straps can pull out of the back of the seat, causing young children to fall. Contact Little Tikes to receive a free repair kit at (800) 815-4820 or visit the firm's web site at [www.littletikes.com](http://www.littletikes.com)

Lane Cedar Chests (12 million) distributed by Lane Co. The cedar chest lids automatically latch shut when closed, posing a suffocation hazard to children. New locks, used since 1987, will prevent entrapments because they do not automatically latch shut. No Lane cedar chests manufactured since 1987 pose this safety hazard. Contact Lane to get new free locks (easy to install at home) to prevent entrapments, (888) 856-8758 or [www.lanefurniture.com](http://www.lanefurniture.com)

Safety 1st Fold-Up Booster Seat models 173, 173A and 173B (1.5 million) distributed by Safety 1st. . The top half of the booster seat insert can separate, causing a child to fall and be injured. Contact Safety 1st for free repair kit at (888) 579-1730 or [www.safety1st.com](http://www.safety1st.com)

Evenflo Joyride Car Seats/Carriers models 203, 205, 210, 435, 493 (3.4 million) distributed by Evenflo Co. Inc., when used as an infant carrier, the handle can unexpectedly release, causing the seat to flip forward and allowing an infant to

fall to the ground and suffer serious injuries. Contact Evenflo to get a free repair kit at (800) 557-3178 or [www.joyridecarseat.com](http://www.joyridecarseat.com)

Century Car Seats/Carriers (4 million) distributed by Century products, when used as an infant carrier, the handle can break, causing an infant to fall to the ground and suffer serious injuries. Contact Century to get a free easy-to-install replacement handle at (800) 865-1419 or [www.centuryproducts.com](http://www.centuryproducts.com)

Baby Trend Portable Cribs/Play Yards models Home and Roam and Baby Express (100,000) distributed by Baby Trend Inc., these cribs/play yards can collapse and entrap an infant in the V-shape created by the collapsed sides of the crib/play yard. Play yards made since 1997 meet a new safety standard that requires the top rails automatically lock into place when the unit is fully set up. Contact Baby Trend to get a free new play yard at (800) 328-7363 or [www.babytrend.com](http://www.babytrend.com)

Cosco Playpens models "Zip n Go", "Okie Dokie" and "Carters" (102,000) distributed by Dorel Juvenile Group, plastic tabs on the playpen that lock the rails into the corners can break or loosen over time, allowing the rails to turn inward, collapse, and entrap an infant. Contact Dorel Juvenile Group to get a refund or replacement product at (800) 314-9327 or [www.djgusa.com](http://www.djgusa.com)

Twister Portable Lamps (480,000) distributed by Emess Lighting Inc. and SLI Lighting Solutions Inc. The lamp's bulb can become hot, presenting a risk of burn injuries and the risk of fire if the bulb touches combustibles. Contact the firm to get a free retrofit kit at (800) 366-2579 or [www.twisterlamp.com](http://www.twisterlamp.com)

**The following tips from CPSC will help consumers choose appropriate toys to give for the holidays:**

- Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills, and interest level of the intended child. Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards to younger children.
- For infants, toddlers, and all children who still mouth objects, avoid toys with small parts which could pose a fatal choking hazard.
- Look for sturdy construction, such as tightly secured eyes, noses, and other potential small parts.
- For all children under age 8, avoid toys that have sharp edges and points.

- Do not purchase electric toys with heating elements for children under age 8.
- Be a label reader. Look for labels that give age recommendations and use that information as a guide.
- Check instructions for clarity. They should be clear to you, and when appropriate, to the child.
- Immediately discard plastic wrappings on toys, which can cause suffocation, before they become deadly playthings.
- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02045.html>

If you would like to sign up for the Keep Your Kids Safe newsletter, please visit our webpage at <http://datcp.state.wi.us> or contact Michelle Reinen at (608) 224-4988 or [michelle.reinen@datcp.state.wi.us](mailto:michelle.reinen@datcp.state.wi.us). Be sure to provide your name, telephone number and e-mail address.

If you have any questions or want to file a complaint regarding an unsafe product, contact:  
 WI Bureau of Consumer Protection,  
 Regulation & Safety Section  
 1-800-422-7128 (toll free in Wisconsin)  
 or (608) 224-4988